



Executive Officer's Statement

September 27, 2006

5th Anniversary Commemoration of September 11th

Governor Schwarzenegger gave the keynote address at a ceremony commemorating the 5th anniversary of September 11th. A World Trade Center survivor from California and a New York City firefighter who worked in the hours and days after the collapse of the buildings to search for survivors also delivered moving comments on their experience at the Capitol event. Rosario Marin, Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency, and our staff joined survivors and family members of victims from California at the event. The VCGCB hosted a follow-up session for the survivors and victim families with therapists from the U.C. San Francisco Trauma Center. The commemoration was an inspirational reminder of the horrific events that took place that day, a national tragedy that can never be forgotten.

National Association Highlights Emerging Trends and Issues

The National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards met in Seattle and held sessions on a variety of emerging compensation issues and national trends. It was an opportunity to meet with John Gillis, Director of the Office for Victims of Crime and his staff. Information about the new International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP) was presented. The program is being launched on October 6, 2006 to help Americans who become victims of terrorism when they are overseas. The program is retroactive to cover terrorist events that occurred as early as 1988. The benefits of this program may be far-reaching for victims. Another emerging issue discussed at the conference is human trafficking and slavery, a growing national problem.

Victim Compensation Program Advisory Committee Presentations

The Governor's Victim Advocate, Susan Fisher, shared her compelling story with the Committee at its quarterly meeting this month. As the victim of a crime, Ms. Fisher brings not only expertise but also first-hand knowledge about the victim experience to her job. In addition to leading the Doris Tate Crime Victims Bureau, she chaired the Board of Prison Terms. She told the committee that her focus is to increase the visibility of crime victims and revitalize the advocacy role for the organizations that represent them. In addition, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation gave a presentation about California's two-year pilot project on GPS tracking of high-risk sexual predators who are on parole. The devices track compliance and protect victims by satellite on a 24/7 basis.

CaRES Moves Ahead

The Victim Compensation Program Compensation and Restitution System (CaRES) is on track, with 1,000 claims entered into the system as of September 1. Most important, as of October 1st all new applications received at the VCGCB will be processed through CaRES. CaRES is being implemented in phases to avoid disrupting services to victims. Since June 30, a careful plan has been followed to implement CaRES functionality sequentially and to enter an increasing volume of new claims into the CaRES system over time.

Family Picnic Kicks Off California State Employees Charitable Campaign

The 2nd Annual Interagency Family Picnic promises an exciting and fun kickoff for the California State Employees Charitable Campaign. Hosted by the State and Consumer Services

Agency, the daylong event – which offers food, a softball tournament and many other family activities – is on September 29 in William Land Park. The VCGCB will be fielding a full softball team so we look forward to a great day in the park. Proceeds will be donated to the Campaign, providing momentum for this annual opportunity for employees to give to their favorite charities through payroll deductions.

VCGCB Updates

- The California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women in Long Beach offered an impressive group of speakers, including Governor Schwarzenegger, First Lady Maria Shriver, and noteworthy authors, businesswomen and political pundits. Several VCGCB staff joined Secretary Marin in attending the September 26 event.
- The VCGCB participated in a number of important conferences in September, including:
 - The National Adult Protective Services Association's Elder Abuse Conference in San Francisco September 6-8.
 - The UC Davis Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Sacramento September 11-13.
 - The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in San Diego September 14-19.
- McGeorge Law School invited the VCGCB to be an information resource for its Crime Victims Legal Clinic in Sacramento on September 18. Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer of the Revenue Recovery, Accounting and Government Claims Division, provided a presentation on restitution laws. She also focused on the VCGCB's partnership with counties, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Franchise Tax Board to increase restitution collections.
- Restitution staff provided training about restitution laws and processes to probation and parole officers at the California Correctional Peace Officers Association conference in San Diego September 20.